new england *UFO* newsletter

WHOLE NUMBER 9 JANUARY, 1978

"I have a message for planet earth..."

United Press International

SOUTHAMPTON, England — "This is the voice of Asteron," began the mysterious broadcast that interrupted television programming Saturday night and startled thousands of viewers in southern England.

As of yesterday the source of the voice was still a mystery.

The mystery began when a series of bleeps gradually overtook normal sound toward the end of Southern Television's evening news program and viewers heard a voice say:

"This is the voice of Asteron. I am an authorized representative of the intergalactic mission and I have a message for the planet earth. We are beginning to enter the period of Aquarius and there are many corrections which have to be made by earth people.

"All your weapons of evil must be destroyed," the voice said. "You only have a short time to learn to live together in peace. You must live together in peace - or leave the galaxy."

Police in the region said they and Southern Television received hundreds of frantic telephone calls.

"Most people took it quite seriously and some were frightened," a police spokesman said.

"Our engineers are trying to discover exactly what happened," a Southern Television spokesman said.

"We can't imagine how it was done but it appears someone must have managed to transmit a signal over ours. The equipment used would need to be fairly sophisticated and expensive."

One viewer said the voice "sounded pretty fed up with the way we are running things down here."

(Boston Globe, 11-28-77)

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Astronomers sight possible new planet

Astronomers searching the night sky report they've discovered a slow moving object that may be a new planet.

According to a report from the Central Bureau of Astronomical Telegrams in Cambridge, Charles Kowal, at the California Institute of Technology, has identified a strange object in the sky moving at a speed similar to, but slightly greater than, the speed of the planet Uranus.

A spokesman for the Center for Astrophysics, in Cambridge, said there's too little data yet to make an identification, but that one interpretation is that it could be a new planet.

He said the object appears to be in orbit (around the sun) "somewhere between Saturn and Uranus."

Kowal told United Press International that the object "is about 100 to 400 miles in diameter. That is small for a planet, but as big as some asteroids. There are not usually asteroids in that area and it is too bright to be a comet."

At this time, it was reported, the object appears to have all of the characteristics of a planet. The report of the object reads like this:

C.T. Kowal, Hale Observatories, reports the discovery of a slow-moving object of stellar appearance on exposures with the 122-centimeter Schmidt telescope at Palomar.

"The motion, scarcely greater than that of Uranus, is extraordinarily slow for an object so close to opposition." (Opposition occurs when the Earth lies between the Sun and another object, such as a planet.)

(Boston Globe - 11/8/77)

Bigfoot upsets Indian Hamlet

LITTLE EAGLE, S.D. — A.P. —Indians in this remote hamlet on the Standing Rock Reservation are so convinced that the ape-like creature Bigfoot is roaming nearby that some are carrying guns or moving out.

Twenty-eight sightings of Bigfoot have been reported in Little Eagle since September.

The creatures have been described as between six and nine feet tall and weighing between 600-900 pounds. One of the larger animals is reported to be dark in color and another is light colored. A third Bigfoot reportedly is smaller, at about six feet and 400 pounds, according to other reports.

(Boston Globe - 11-29-77)

New Format Beginning This Issue

This issue of the New England UFO Study Group *NEWSLETTER* introduces a "new look" in our editorial format. We are fortunate in having access to a highly sophisticated photocomposing machine, the only cost to the Group being the cost of the photographic paper involved.

Some of the editorial staff have had prior experience in the newspaper field, but are short of typing skills. We ask that you be patient with the occasional 'typos', misplaced lines and paragraphs, etc. Since the machine is not accessible to outside personnel, we are unable to ask for volunteer typists.

Short notes you may have missed in the news media...

☐*According to the National Enquirer, producer Jack Webb, of "Dragnet" fame, has been engaged to produce a thirteen episode series of UFO programs based on reports contained in official USAF files. More programs are a possibility if the series draws enough public interest and response.*

☐*The Boston Globe for November 29, 1977, contained a rather humourous article by Art Buchwald entitled 'No red carpet for little green visitors'. The theme revolved around the landing of a flying saucer in Rock Creek Park, in Washington, D.C., and the ufonaut's inevitible request that they be taken to our leader. Of course (according to Mr. Buchwald) we have no leader, only a President, and it was suggested that perhaps they would like to speak with Fritz Mondale about their becoming our leader, since Fritz is in charge of 'all Administration appointments for outer space'.*

UFO-TRIVIA

Edited by Ed Fogg

★ = Easy, ★★ = Moderate, ★★★ = Difficult, ★★★★ = If you get this one, you qualify to write the next column!

★ Name the Boise, Idaho businessman who was responsible for the coining of the term "Flying Saucer."

★★ Name one of the UFO occupants mentioned by George Adamski.

★★★ What physical evidence was reportedly left by the Socorro, New Mexico, saucer, besides landing imprints and burnt bushes?

★★★★ Name the founder of NICAP (watch this one - it's not who you think it was!)

(Answers elsewhere in this newsletter)

It looks from here as if...

...there is at present a lull in the number of locally reported sightings...perhaps this would be a good time for us to catch up on some of those picky little thing we have put off for so long...such as - catching up on our reading and prepare a book report for a future edition of the *NEWSLETTER*...or perhaps we know of an interesting sighting report which needs to be investigated and written up...the nights are darker and longer as this is being written - a good time to put our scrapbooks in order, weed out the duplicate clippings and articles and pass them on to someone who can use them...same thing applies to duplicate books and 'zines - someone would be thrilled to have a chance to look over some of the older material that is gathering moss out there...do we *really* use all of this material, or do we garner some Freudian satisfaction from being able to make sweeping gestures in the general direction of our 'librarites'...speaking of Freud, how many of us believe in the things and ideas we profess, based on subjective analysis, and how many of us believe simply because we 'need to'?...by the time this gets into your hands, many of you will have been to the theaters to see

(Continued)

It Looks...
(cont. from p. 1)

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD TYPE - what were your impresstons, crtticisms, etc. - did it fail to impress you, or do you think it was an honest portrayal of what has been going on?...what *has* been going on, anyway - does anyone *really* have an idea, or are we all sttll whistling tn the dark?...I'm beginning to wonder if all of this isn't a product of the elves who live in the hollow oak tree - this is written tongue-in-cheek, but really, are we any closer to a solution now than we were five, ten, fifteen or even twenty years ago?...sometimes I wonder...

by 'Stendec'

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FLYING SAUCERS ARE REAL...THE AIR FORCE DOESN'T EXIST.

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Trivia Answers

Kenneth Arnold, Orthon and/or Fifton, metallic traces on rocks, Townsend Brown - the co discoverer of the Byfield-Brown ef fect.

Close encounters of the top-level kind

(by Jim Delay, Boston Herald-American)

Many of my friends who voted for Jimmy Carter last year did so for only one reason: Jimmy Carter has seen a UFO. It had not been too often, up to that time, that we had a chance to vote for a President who had seen a UFO.

These same people have been convinced, ever since Jimmy Carter's inauguration, that Jimmy Carter would find out what the government really knew about UFOs and that he would let us in on these secrets before the year was out.

All through the spring we waited for the truth about close encounters with UFOs, all through the summer and fall. Not a word from Jimmy Carter. And here we are now, nearly at the end of the year, and what does Jimmy Carter tell us about what's going on OUT THERE? He tells us nothing.

Now, of course, we are more curious than ever, and we are wondering what it is that Jimmy Carter has found out about UFOs since he gained access to the most guarded government secrets.

Whatever it is he has found out he is apparently afraid to tell us.

It must be awful.

There are rumors, of course, about what it is that Jimmy Carter has found out. There are always rumors about that kind of thing. And, in these days of weird events, who can be sure that one of these rumors will not turn out to be true in every detail. That is enough reason for repeating them here.

One of these rumors places Jimmy Carter, early in his career as President, in the top secret office of the Chief of Extraterrestrial Observation in the Defense Department. This fellow sits straight as a stick in he chair and stares cold as ice at Jimmy Carter.

Jimmy Carter smiles, of course, but the Chief does not smile.

Jimmy Carter says, "Sure is nice to meet you. I was hoping you'd be able to give me a little briefing on what's been going on. I'm especially interested in UFOs because one time I saw this luminous object in the sky. And ever since then I've wanted to know if maybe some little alien creatures were....."

And the Chief says, without changing expression, "We have no such information."

And Jimmy Carter says, "Shoot, you don't have to keep secrets from me. After all, I am the Prestdent and the Commander in Chief, and everybody knows that there is some kind of information that you fellows have about saucers and luminous objects and little green..."

At that instant, according to thts rumor, the Chief of Extraterrestrial Observation shrinks to a fellow 14 inches tall, right before the eyes of Jimmy Carter. And, before he can say another word, the 14 inch tall Chief turns into a puff og lethal gas that makes Jimmy Carter cough. Then the Chief turns into a kidney bean, then into another Jimmy Carter smiling back at Jimmy Carter, then into a water pistol firing squirts of water on Jimmy Carter's shirt, then into a phonograph record playing "Mention My Name in Milwaukee," then into Billy Carter, then into Rosalyn Carter, then into the Metropolitan Opera Company performing Rigoletto in miniature atop the Chief's desk. Then he becomes the Cjief again and stares at Jimmy Carter, and says, "We have no such information." And, according to this rumor, Jimmy Carter says, "Thank you very much," and he goes back to the White house and tells everybody he's not too interested in UFOs anymore. That's one rumor.

The other rumor about Jimmy Carter and UFOs also has Jimmy Carter going into the office of the Chief of Extraterrestrial Observation.

But in this other rumor we don't hear anything about what went on in there. We hear only about the door shutting and remaining shut for a long time. Then we hear about Jimmy Carter coming out the door, and that's where everything about the second rumor gets all mixed up. Some people say it wasn't Jimmy Carter who came out that door at all; it was Rosalynn Carter. Others say no, it wasn't Rosalynn Carter; it was a kidney bean; others say it was a water pistol, squirting and giggling; others say it was a fellow 14 inches tall who looked like the Chief.

In any event, it looks like we won't be hearing any answers about UFOs from our first UFO-sighting President. Many of us continue to wonder why.

(Jim Delay's column appears in the Boston Herald American on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday.)

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Saucer searchers - good hunting (continued)

n field it appeared to reverse direction.

The reporters, Mrs. Hill, and the other jumped out of the two cars and pointed to the object, which slowly moved out of the line of sight.

Air Force and FAA officials said later that night that they knew of no unusual activity near the "landing site."

Mrs. Hill gestured toward the woods. "I would say there are six or eight of them in there now."

"Let's walk over there," a reporter suggested.

"It's too noisy now with the kids and all," she said.

"What would happen if we approached?"

"They will turn out their lights...and I suspect they put down some kind of invisible barrier and you have trouble seeing them. But if you touch it, it'll knock you flat."

Mrs. Hill said she has been approached by the objects.

"One of them, I call it the military, came right across the field at me," she said pointing into the darkness. "It was shooting out a beam."

She pointed to a line of blistered paint on the front of her car and said it was caused by "the military's" heat beam.

Leuser said a strange beam followed his car last week near the "landing site."

"Betty said it was a UFO beaming down at us. She said we should leave so we did. It seemed to follow us down the road, and when we went back later there were no lights that could have lit up the road like that," she said.

Mrs. Hill said, "When they want you to leave they come toward you in a darting motion...sort of zoom, zoom, zoom, and at that point I leave."

(Credit - The South Middlesex News, Monday, Oct. 10, 1977)

NOTE

Steve Putnam's interview with Mr. Jim Roberts of Erie, Pa. which was initiated in the last issue of our Newsletter, will be continued in the April issue.

Further Information on the May 11 Sighting in Monson, Ma.

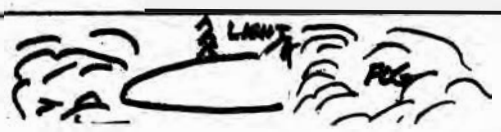
The Public Information Office at Westover AFB has indicated to this inquirer the presence of six Air Force planes over the Monson area on the date and time of the reported sighting. This has led some investigators to conclude that what the witnesses saw may have indeed not been UFOs but aircraft seen under unusual conditions. Not all the witnesses accept the conventional object explanation and continue to maintain that what they saw was indeed unknown.

Additional Information on the Westboro Report in Our July Newsletter

By Joe Nyman

Many thanks are in order to Langley Gatling for investigating the possible flight habits of Marine helicopters from the South Weymouth Naval Air Station. His research indicates that it is not at all unlikely that a Marine helicopter could have been over the Westboro area on the date mentioned in our report since pilots are really not restricted as to their flight paths in good flying weather.

NEUFOSG Sighting Summary

ate	Time	Seen From	Witns.	Maneuvers	Object(s) (Differing Scales)
8/21/77	10:30 pm	Mammoth Rd. Lowell, Ma	1	Moved slowly like plane.	
9/9/77	9:30 pm	Heath Rd. South Easton Ma.	1	Made whistling noise. Disappeared quickly.	
9/20/77	8pm	Nr. Kennebunkport Me.	2	Followed car, beamed light over trees	

Correcting an Earlier Report
By Joe Nyman

The April 1977 Study Group Newsletter reported a sighting in Attleboro, Ma. on Dec. 19, 1976. Ed Fogg and Joe Nyman have looked into that matter in a little more detail and they would like to present this amplified report.

The sighting really occurred at the junction of Route 44, and the Taunton River in Taunton, very close to the Taunton-Raynham-Middleboro line.

At 9:30 PM EST on Dec. 19, 1976 Burton and Priscilla Cole were driving West along Rte. 44. In the sky to their right-as they passed the Lakeville-Taunton line- they saw through their windshield what looked like two planes at an elevation of 30°. The Coles were surprised to see aircraft so low and continued watching as they drove down the road. While they were moving they could see that these were very large objects relatively close to the tops of the trees. They seemed to bear no resemblance to airplanes or helicopters.

One of the objects seemed to come closer to them then dipped below the tree tops and disappeared from sight. The other object was still visible above the trees as Mr. cole stopped the car on the left side of the road just before the Taunton River. He got out and saw the remaining object start to move slowly toward Middleboro. It then also dropped below the level of the tree tops but Mr. Cole could still see the object through the trees. Suddenly, it just disappeared.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Cole had remained in the car. During her husband's observation she lowered the side window to see if she could hear any sound but could not.

Both Mr. amd Mrs. Cole noticed flashing lights and a rotating section on the object in view. Mr. Cole was able to time the flashes at exact two second intervals. The red and blue-green lights at either end seemed to flash in conjunction with the rotating white lite in the center. Burt Cole estimated that he watched the object out of his car for at least three or four minutes.

Mrs Cole estimated the relative size of the object as bigger than a full moon in the ratio of a half dollar to a quarter. The objects did not wobble or dip. One may have made a very sharp turn. There were no electromagnetic effects noted in association with the car's operation.

The investigators were able to go to to the site with the Coles on Dec 3, 1977. The wooded area was a relatively small section bordered by the Taunton River, Route 44 and the Space Metal Factory building. The trees were mostly tall pines with very little room between so that the possibility of the object or objects moving among the trees and possibly landing seems very remote. It is likely that the object last seen was actually over the Taunton River and seemed to move behind the trees as its height above the river decreased. Its sudden disappearance remains a myetery.

We will conclude our report in the next issue with a sketch and calculations giving a better idea of what was seen.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Dave Downs

I recently heard a story called The Six Blind Men and the Elephant. It is a popular story that you may have heard during a church sermon or read as a children's story. The point of the story is that each blind man got hold of a piece of the elephant, decided it was: a wall, a tree, asnake, a piece of rope, a sword, or a blanket, and, knowing that the piece he held was real, refused to listen to the conflicting reports of the other five, feeling that tney were arrant nonsence. Each of the blind men was right, as far as his experience went, but not a single one of them even came close to having the whole picture.

If we drew an analogy between the UFO pnenomena and the elephant, we would be the blind men. The phenomena is apparently very complicated and elusive. It is no wonder that there are so many theories and beliefs surrounding the subject. It is my opinion that no one has the whole picture. The "answer" or "answers", if there are any, may not be found for centuries. Meanwhile, it is important that we keep our minds open to the endless possibilities that exist.

Our UFO group has followed this policy for many years. Consequently, it has served as a melting pot of ideas. This may have contributed to the group's relative success in that it has survived while hundreds of other similar groups have come and gone.

I went to see the movie Close Encounter of the Third Kind this week and I enjoyed it. Over eight million dollars were spent on the promotion of this film. Ironically, this is more than twenty times the amount spent by our government to study the UFO phenomena.On the surface, all this money appears to have been thrown away when compared to the UFO research it could have purchased for us. But perhaps we will discover that this is not so in terms of the "spin off benifits" it may produce for UFO research.

The Condon Committee Study on UFOs produced many positive "spin off benifits" that were not foreseen in 1969 when its negative conclusion was announced.As George Fawcett pointed out at our last meeting, the Condon Report itself is a good source book for it presents many good solid cases of unidentified flying objects.

Dr. Saunders, a past member of the committee, began a computer study of UFOs which boasts over eighty thousand UFO cases at present. His on going effort,a direct result from having served on the committee, promises to be an excellent beginning towards finding patterns that may exist in the UFO data.

The U.S. Air Force publicly stopped investigating UFO cases as a result of the Condon Report. This effectively eliminated the rivalry between UFO buffs and the Air Force. We no longer had authors, researchers and interested readers devoting much of their efforts against the Air Force. They began to direct these efforts in areas that have proven to be more beneficial towards solving the UFO riddle.

While it's too early to predict what "spin off benifits",if any, we may acquire from Close Encounters, it's not too early to recommend that you go out and see it for yourself.